

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000943

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. ⁷: C22B 3/06, 3/04, 3/08, 3/10, 23/00, B03B 5/00, 7/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

REFER ELECTRONIC DATA BASECONSULTED

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI, IPC: C22B 3/06, 3/04, 3/08, 3/10, 23/00, B03B 5/00, 7/00 and LEACH+, LATERIT+, NICKEL, NI

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	WO 2004/031422 A (EUROPEAN NICKEL PLC) 15 April 2004 whole document	1-18
A, P	WO 2003/093517 A (QNI TECHNOLOGY PTY LTD) 13 November 2003 whole document	1-18
A	WO 2001/032943 A (BHP MINERALS INTERNATIONAL, INC) 10 May 2001 whole document	1-18
A	US 6379636 B (ARROYO et al.) 30 April 2002 whole document	1-18

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
23 August 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 AUG 2004

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6312500 B (DUYVESTÉYN et al.) 6 November 2001 whole document	1-18
A	US 5571308 A (DUYVESTÉYN et al.) 5 November 1996 whole document	1-18
A	AU 89338/2001 (MG TECHNOLOGIES AG) 16 May 2002 whole document	1-18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/000943

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report			Patent Family Member				
WO	2004031422	NONE					
WO	03093517	NONE					
WO	0132943	AU	26176/01	BR	0015328	CA	2389635
		EP	1228257	US	6261527	US	2002041840
		ZA	200203241				
US	6379636	AU	24697/01	BR	0015305	CA	2389653
		EP	1232290	US	2002006370	WO	0132944
		ZA	200203242				
US	6312500	AU	55204/01	BR	0109795	CA	2404003
		EP	1272680	WO	0175184	ZA	200207784
US	5571308	AU	57310/96	BR	9609735	CA	2224218
		EP	0862659	OA	10651	WO	9704139
AU	89338/01	CA	2360704	DE	10055550		
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.							
END OF ANNEX							